

Main Idea/Details

Apply In:

"Amazing Trees," page 4

1 Reteach

Write each sentence on a paper strip:

- Trees are useful.
- Apple trees give us fruit.
- Oak trees give us shade.
- Maple trees give us wood.

Display the drawing. Tape the last three sentences to the branches. Tape *Trees are useful* across the trunk. Then display this chart:

Main Idea	Details

Say: **Trees are useful. They give us many things we can use.** Take the strip off the trunk and tape it in the *Main Idea* section of the chart. **Trees are useful is the big idea. It is the main idea.**

Remove the other strips from the branches. Say: **Now I need to tell more about my main idea. Here are some details. The details tell more about how trees are useful.** Read each sentence as you tape it to the chart.

2 Practice with a Group

Write the sentences on paper strips and have each student choose one. They can tell whether it is the main idea or a detail.

- You can make a beautiful bouquet with wildflowers.
- Daisies have pretty white petals.
- Ferns look like lace.
- Pink honeysuckle smells sweet.

Materials

- paper strips
- drawing of a tree

Main Idea/Details

3 Apply

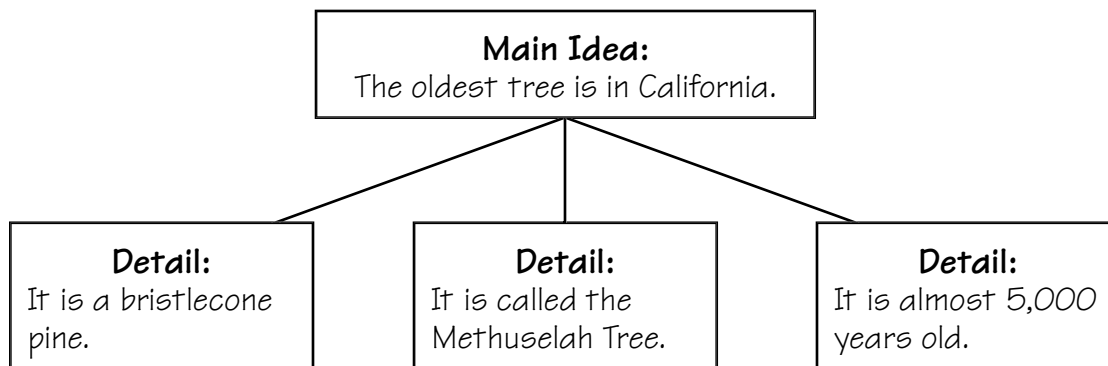
Distribute copies of the **Main Idea and Details Bookmark** and “Amazing Trees.” Explain that students should refer to the Bookmark as they listen or read. Then form groups.

- ▶ **Beginning Readers** listen as you read the selection aloud.
- ▶ **More Fluent Readers** read the selection silently.

After reading, bring groups together to identify the main idea and details in the selection. Use the **Multi-Level Strategies** to support students at all proficiency levels.

BEGINNING	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
Have students identify details by asking questions with embedded answers: Is the special name for the coast redwood tree a main idea or a detail?	Discuss the oldest tree and have students provide details: The last paragraph is about the oldest tree in the world. Where is the tree? What are the details?	Have partners write a sentence to tell what “Amazing Trees” is mostly about. Then have them write the main idea and details of each paragraph on index cards.

Record students’ ideas about each paragraph in charts:



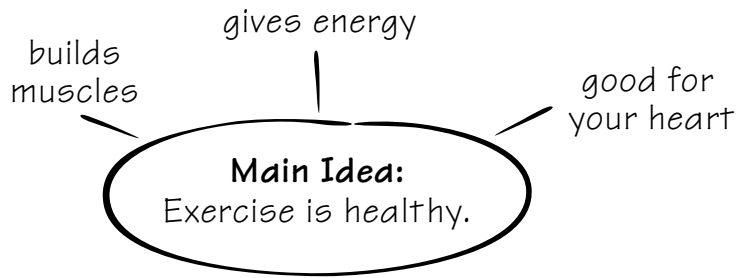
Have partners use the charts to write a main idea statement for the entire selection.

CLOSE AND ASSESS

Have students define main idea (big idea) and supporting details (things that tell more about the main idea).

Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** is what a selection is mostly about.
Details tell about the main idea.

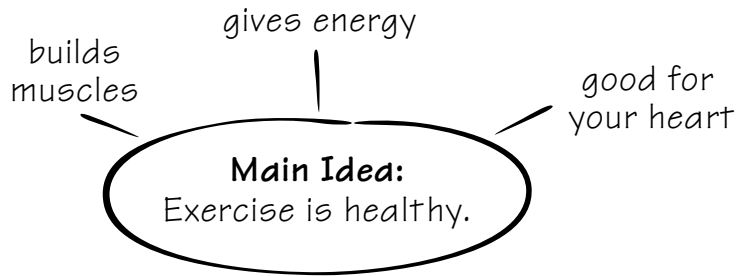


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Main Idea and Details

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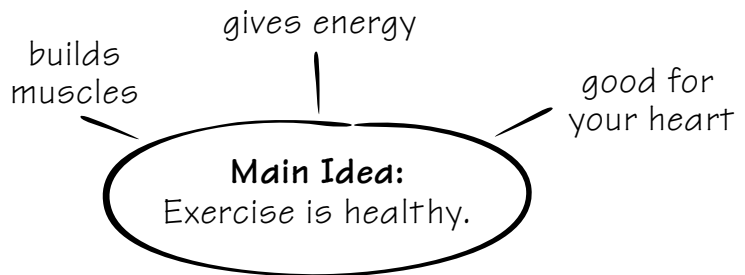


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Main Idea and Details

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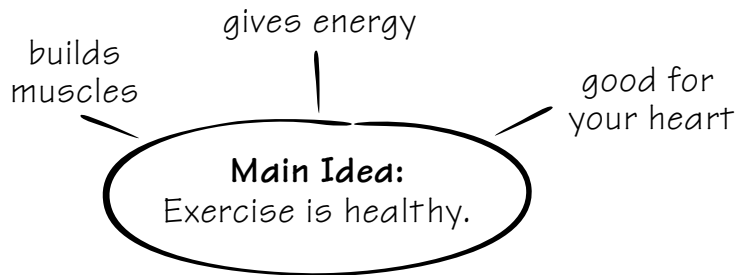


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Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** is what a selection is mostly about.
Details tell about the main idea.



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Amazing Trees

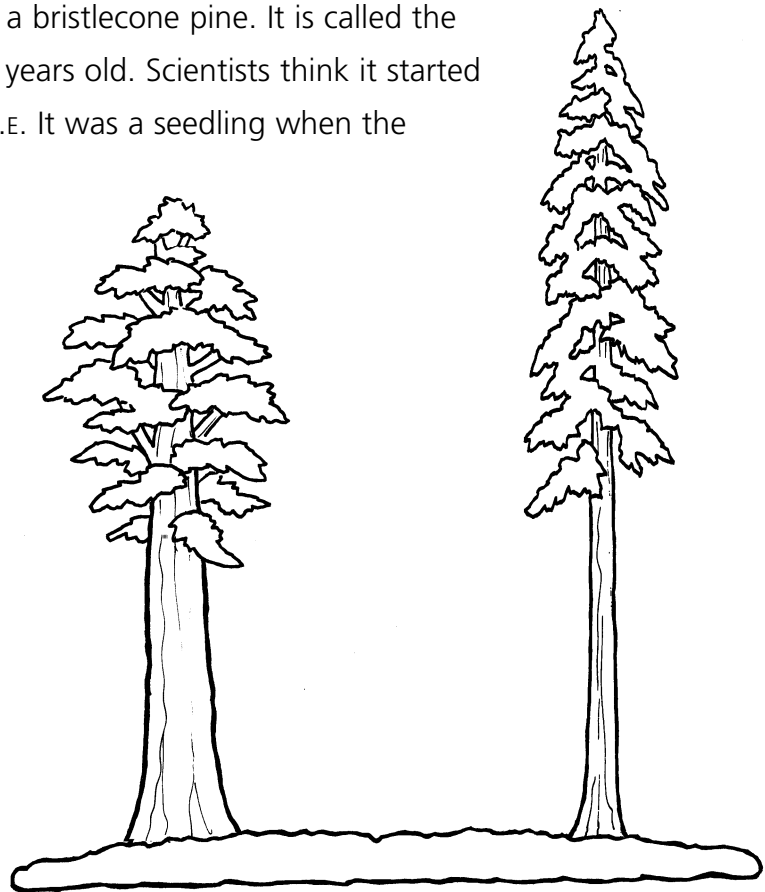
Some amazing trees grow in the state of California. In fact, California is the home of the tallest, biggest, and oldest trees in the world.

The tallest tree in the world is a coast redwood tree. It is 369 feet and 6 inches tall. That's about five stories taller than the Statue of Liberty! Tree-lovers have given this special tree a name. They call it the Stratosphere Giant. The stratosphere is part of the atmosphere high above Earth's surface. Do you think Stratosphere Giant is a good name for this tree?

The biggest tree in the world is a sequoia tree. While the tallest tree has the greatest height, the biggest tree has the greatest amount of wood. Imagine that the biggest and tallest trees are side-by-side. The big sequoia tree is shorter than the tall redwood tree, but its trunk is much thicker.

The biggest tree is named General Sherman. Its trunk is about 103 feet around. Imagine thirty people holding hands in a circle. General Sherman's trunk is about that big around. Scientists estimate that the tree weighs 2,000 tons. That's as heavy as ten blue whales!

The oldest tree in the world is a bristlecone pine. It is called the Methuselah Tree. It is almost 5,000 years old. Scientists think it started to grow in about the year 2766 B.C.E. It was a seedling when the Egyptians built the pyramids.



sequoia tree

coast redwood tree